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## MINNESOTA OPERA ANNOUNCES ITS 2019-2020 SEASON

The world premiere of *Edward Tulane*, based on the bestselling book by Minnesota author Kate DiCamillo, comes to the Ordway stage March 2020.

**MINNEAPOLIS (February 19, 2019)** – Minnesota Opera today announced its 2019-2020 season, building upon the company’s reputation as a leading producer of new works while also continuing to present fresh and insightful productions of the classics.

The 2019–2020 season features five mainstage operas starting in October with Strauss’ Greek tragedy, *Elektra*. For the holiday season, Rossini’s instantly recognizable music takes center stage in his razor-sharp, comedic masterpiece, *The Barber of Seville*. Touching down in January is Jonathan Dove’s *Flight*, a charming dramedy all about what it means to make real connections. In March, Minnesota original *Edward Tulane*, based on the bestselling book by local author Kate DiCamillo, makes its world premiere as an opera for both the young and young at heart. Closing the season in May is Mozart’s smart and otherworldly opera, *Don Giovanni*, not seen on the Ordway stage in more than a decade.

“I am pleased to announce Minnesota Opera’s new season, filled with masterpieces, passionate performers, intriguing stories and beautiful music,” said President and General Director Ryan Taylor. “These five productions range from a heartwarming new work to one of Mozart’s most popular operas. Between the wide variety of genres and the wide array of artists enlisted to bring these stories to life, there is something for everyone in our upcoming season. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our audiences and the greater community for their generous support, which allows Minnesota Opera to bring the highest quality artistic product to the stage.”

The 2019-2020 season marks the return of several artists familiar to Minnesota Opera audiences, in addition to noteworthy debuts. *Elektra* brings back the creative team of *Das Rheingold* led by stage director Brian Staufenbiel and features the debuts of Melody Moore and Alexandra Loutsion in the title role. Internationally recognized opera director Francesca Zambello, the general director of The Glimmerglass Festival and the artistic director of The Washington National Opera, brings a new production of *Barber* to Minnesota from Glimmerglass starring Daniela Mack, acclaimed for her “caramel timbre, flickering vibrato and crisp articulation” (*Opernwelt*) as she “hurls fast notes like a Teresa Berganza or a Frederica von Stade” (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

Kicking off 2020, *Flight* offers the return of former Resident Artist David Radamés Toro serving as stage director for a production created by Brian Staufenbiel at San Francisco’s Opera Parallèle. The ensemble cast is led by former Minnesota Opera Resident Artist countertenor Cortez Mitchell and coloratura soprano Hye Jung Lee (*Fellow Travelers*). The world premiere of *Edward Tulane*, a new opera by composer Paola Prestini and librettist Mark Campbell, features the debut of

conductor Lidiya Yankovskaya, the return of longtime Minnesota Opera stage director Eric Simonson and the noteworthy debut of Project Opera alum Jack Swanson in the title role. *Don Giovanni* features the return baritone Seth Carico (*Dead Man Walking*) as the infamous womanizer Don Giovanni.

## 2019-2020 Season Casting & Calendar

### *Elektra*

First time at Minnesota Opera

A newly created Minnesota Opera production

Music by Richard Strauss

Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal

October 5, 8, 10, 12 and 13, 2019

*Sung in German with English translations projected above the stage.*

**The Brink of Madness.** After her mother has her father murdered, Elektra is hell-bent on revenge. Though she thirsts for justice, her fury brings her to the brink of madness in this stark and shadowy, reimagined Greek tragedy. As intense and gripping as opera gets, Strauss' *Elektra* unfolds in a thrilling single act of rare vocal and orchestral power that aims straight for the jugular.

Conductor

Elias Grandy

Stage Director

Brian Staufienbiel

Elektra

Melody Moore (October 5, 10 and 12)

Alexandra Loutsion (October 8 and 13)

Klytæmnestra

Jill Grove

Chrysothemis

Marcy Stonikas

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### *The Barber of Seville*

Last seen at Minnesota Opera in 2009

A Glimmerglass Festival production

Music by Gioachino Rossini

Libretto by Cesare Sterbini

November 9, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17, 2019

*Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.*

**Let Your Hair Down.** Rossini's beloved and irresistible rom-com is a cut above. Figaro, Seville's quick-witted barber, helps a young woman flee an unsuitable suitor and find true love. Naturally, nothing goes according to plan, and Figaro must think on his feet to save the day. *The Barber of Seville* features instantly recognizable music that sparkles in this razor-sharp, comedic masterpiece.

Conductor	Joseph Mechavich (November 9, 10, 12, 14 and 16) Andrew Whitfield (November 17)
Stage Director	Francesca Zambello
Associate Stage Director	Joshua R. Horowitz
Rosina	Daniela Mack
Count Almaviva	Alek Shrader
Figaro	Rodion Pogossov
Doctor Bartolo	Patrick Carfizzi

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## *Flight*

First time at Minnesota Opera

An Opera Parallèle production originally directed by Brian Staufenbiel

Music by Jonathan Dove

Libretto by April De Angelis

January 25, 28, 30 and February 1 and 2, 2020

*Sung in English with English captions projected above the stage.*

**Make Your Connection.** Eight complete strangers find they have more in common than they think. Stranded overnight at an airport, they meet a refugee forced to call the terminal his home and soon realize they need each other to get to their destinations. Inspired by a true story, Jonathan Dove's *Flight* is a touching, charming and deeply human dramedy all about what it means to make a real connection.

Conductor	Geoffrey McDonald
Stage Director	David Radamés Toro*
Refugee	Cortez Mitchell*
Controller	Hye Jung Lee
Older Woman	Deanne Meek
Steward	Christian Thurston*

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WORLD PREMIERE

## *Edward Tulane*

First time at Minnesota Opera

A newly created Minnesota Opera production

Based on the novel by Kate DiCamillo

Music by Paola Prestini

Libretto by Mark Campbell

Commissioned by Minnesota Opera

A Minnesota Opera New Works Initiative Production

March 21, 22, 24, 26 and 28, 2020

*Sung in English with English captions projected above the stage.*

**Lost Hearts Can Find Home Again.** Edward Tulane is a toy rabbit who thinks of himself as quite exceptional. Content in his easy life, his world is upturned when he is separated from his loving family. Based on the best-seller by local author Kate DiCamillo, *Edward Tulane* takes us on a miraculous journey, from the depths of the deep blue sea to the streets of Memphis. Perfect for the young and young at heart, this elegantly whimsical Minnesota original shows us a true miracle—that if you open your heart, you can find home.

Conductor	Lidiya Yankovskaya
Stage Director	Eric Simonson
Edward	Jack Swanson
Lucius	Zachary James
Sarah Ruth	Jasmine Habersham
Abilene's Mother	Adriana Zabala*
Nellie	Victoria Vargas*

## *Don Giovanni*

Last seen at Minnesota Opera in 2005

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

May 2, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 16, 2020

*Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.*

**So Hot, He'll Burn.** Don Giovanni is an egotistical and infamous womanizer, brazen in his shameless seductions. But his betrayals soon catch up to him when divine retribution exacts the ultimate price. From the world's most well-known composer, Mozart's seamless blend of dark comedy with biting social commentary is a smart and otherworldly story of a man who dares to defy hell itself.

Conductor	Karen Kamensek (May 2, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16) Andrew Whitfield (May 14)
Don Giovanni	Seth Carico
Donna Anna	Elaine Alvarez
Donna Elvira	Sara Gartland
Leporello	Wm. Clay Thompson*

\*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Alum



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*Artists subject to change.*

## TICKETS

Season ticket packages (\$54-\$821) for the 2019-2020 season are available now online at [mnopera.org](http://mnopera.org) or by calling or visiting Minnesota Opera Patron Services at 612-333-6669 or 620 North First Street in Minneapolis (open Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.). Individual tickets go on sale August 2019.

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Minnesota Opera changes lives by bringing together artists, audiences and community, advancing the art of opera for today and for future generations.